

Policy Number: FD0504362

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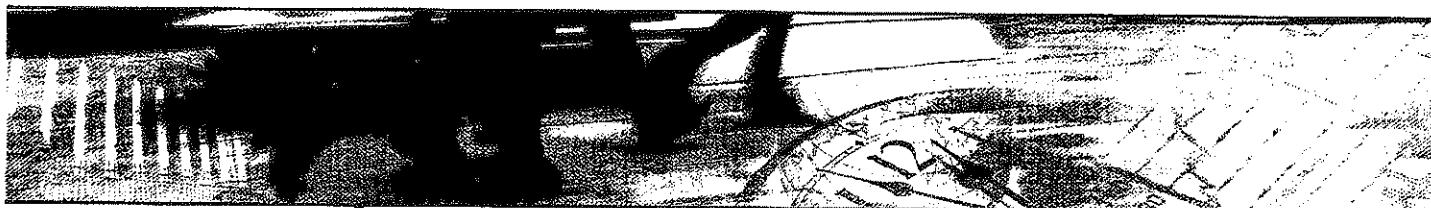
Aon

Contract Document

Professional Risks

STERLING FINANCIAL INVESTMENT GROUP, Inc

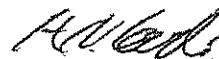
24 May 2005 to 24 May 2006



London
8 Devonshire Square
London
EC2M 4PL

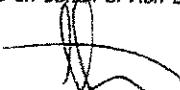
Tel +44 (0) 20 7623 5500
Fax +44 (0) 20 7621 1511

*This Contract Document has been signed for and on behalf of Aon Limited on the date
specified herein by:*



Account Executive
AON PROFESSIONAL RISKS
AON LIMITED

Dated in London: 20/8/05



Executive Director / Authorised Signatory
AON PROFESSIONAL RISKS
AON LIMITED

Dated in London: 20/8/05

Aon Limited

Registered Office 8 Devonshire Square London EC2M 4PL
Registered in London No 210725 VAT Registration No 480 8401 48
Aon Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority in respect of insurance mediation activities only

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Introduction

- I. Jacket***
- II. Schedule***
- III. Wording***
- IV. Supplemental Clauses***
- V. Signing Schedule***

Confirmation of Order:

We thank you for your firm order in respect of the coverage outlined below, which we have bound with Underwriters. Would you please check this document in every detail and advise us immediately if the coverage provided does not conform with your instructions.

Our commitment to Service Quality:

As part of our commitment to continual improvement we welcome any comments you may have on the service provided. Please contact Aon Professional Risks Service Quality team on APRQM@aon.co.uk.

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Important Notices

General Client Notices:

This Insurance is issued pursuant to the Florida Surplus Lines Law, persons insured by surplus lines carriers do not have the protection of the Florida Insurance Guaranty Act to the extent of any right of recovery for the obligation of an insolvent unlicensed insurer.

Fraudulent Claims Statement

If the Assured shall make any claim knowing the same to be false or fraudulent, as regards amount or otherwise, this Policy shall become void and all claim(s) hereunder shall be forfeited.

Premium Payment Warranty Notice:

Your attention is drawn to the terms of the Premium Payment Warranty and/or Prompt Payment Discount contained under **Payment Terms** within the schedule.

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Schedule

Form	SECURITIES BROKER/DEALER'S PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE
	Signed and dated Application: 13 April 2005
	Plus Aon Professional Risks Lines Clause 823AON00348 plus 823AON00349 where applicable.
Insured	STERLING FINANCIAL INVESTMENT GROUP, Inc
Principal Address	1200 N. Federal Highway, Suite 400 Boca Raton, FLA 33432
Policy Period	From: 24 May 2005 To: 24 May 2006 Both days inclusive
Limit of Liability	USD 1,000,000 any one Loss / USD 2,000,000 in the aggregate.
Retention	USD 100,000 each and every Claim.
Territorial Limits	WORLDWIDE
Supplemental Clauses	Asbestos and Toxic Mould Exclusion - 254PR. Failure to Maintain Exclusion - 550DO. Nuclear Incident Exclusion Clause - Liability - Direct (Broad) - NMA 1256. Premium Payment Warranty - 146DO. Number of days allowed for payment of premium: 49. Radioactive Contamination Exclusion Clause - Liability - Direct - NMA 1477. Retroactive Clause - LSW778. Retroactive Date: 30 May 1997. Service Of Suit Clause (USA) - NMA 1998. Service of Process nominee: Sedgwick Detert Moran & Arnold, New York, NY. Terrorism Exclusion Endorsement (With An Exception For Certified Acts of Terrorism Under The Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002) - 278PR. War and Terrorism Exclusion - NMA 2918 (amended). Market Fluctuation Clause (Brit Version number 2). Amendment of Change in Control Endorsement. Non-Licensed Business Activity Exclusion. Intentional Corporate Acts Exclusion.

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Supplemental Clauses Continued	Registered Investment Advisory Endorsement (for Approved Activities). Short Covered Call Options (AIG Language). Excessive Fees Exclusion. After Hours Trading Exclusion. Laddering Exclusion. Extended Reporting Period.
Conditions	Wording is based on AIG Securities Broker/Dealer Professional Liability Insurance (3/97).
Several Liability	The subscribing insurers' obligations under contracts of insurance to which they subscribe are several and not joint and are limited solely to the extent of their individual subscriptions. The subscribing insurers are not responsible for the subscription of any co-subscribing insurer who for any reason does not satisfy all or part of its obligations.
Choice of Law and Jurisdiction	<p>Any dispute concerning the interpretation of the terms, conditions, limitations and/or exclusions contained in this Policy is understood and agreed by both the insured and the insurers to be subject to the law of per Service of Suit.</p> <p>Each party agrees to submit to the jurisdiction of per Service of Suit to comply with all requirements necessary to give such Court jurisdiction.</p> <p>In respect of claims brought against the insured and indemnified under this policy, as more fully described herein, the choice of law applicable is New York and the choice of jurisdiction is New York.</p>
Premium	USD 245,000
Payment Terms	One instalment payable in full due 45 days from inception.
Taxes payable by Insured and Administered by the Underwriter(s)	None
Notice of Claims	Kissel & Pesche LLP, Attention: Richard Kissel, 555 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, New York, NY 10591, U.S.A.
Recording, Transmitting and Storage Information	All documentation and information to be recorded and/or transmitted electronically and stored electronically in Aon Limited repositories.

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SECURITIES BROKER/DEALER'S PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

In consideration of the payment of the premium, and in reliance upon the statements made to the Insurer in the application attached hereto and made a part hereof, and its attachments and the material incorporated therein, and subject to the Limit of Liability and all other terms and conditions contained herein, Underwriters at Lloyd's, hereinafter called the "Insurer", agrees as follows:

1. INSURING AGREEMENTS

A. BROKER/DEALER PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE (INCLUDING FAILURE TO SUPERVISE)

This policy shall pay on behalf of the Broker/Dealer Loss arising from a Claim first made against the Broker/Dealer during the Policy Period or the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported in writing to the Insurer pursuant to the terms of this policy for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act committed by the Broker/Dealer:

1. in the rendering or failure to render Professional Services by the Brokers/Dealer; or
2. in Failing to Supervise a Registered Representative in the rendering or failure to render Professional Services by such Registered Representative on the behalf of the Broker/Dealer; or
3. in Failing to Supervise a Registered Representative in connection with any activity of the Registered Representative OTHER THAN the rendering or failure to render Professional Services by such Registered Representative on the behalf of the Brokers/Dealer.

B. REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

This policy shall pay on behalf of a Registered Representative Loss arising from a Claim first made against the Registered Representative during the Policy Period or the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported in writing to the Insurer pursuant to the terms of this policy for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act committed by the Registered Representative in the rendering or failure to render Professional Services on behalf of the Broker/Dealer.

C. DEFENSE, INVESTIGATION AND SETTLEMENT (INCLUDED IN THE LIMITS OF LIABILITY)

1. Defense

The Insurer shall have the right and duty to defend, subject to and as part of the Limits of Liability, any Claim made against an Insured during the Policy Period or Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported in writing to the Insurer pursuant to the terms of this policy for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act for which coverage is afforded by this policy, even if any of the allegations of the Claim are groundless, false or fraudulent.

2. Investigation and Settlement (including retention reduction provision)

The Insurer shall have the right to make any investigation it deems necessary with respect to any Claim or notice of circumstances under this policy. The Insurer shall have the right to make, with the written consent of the Insured, any settlement of a Claim under this policy it deems expedient.

With respect to a Claim solely in the form of a pre-proceeding written demand as described in definition (c)(1), if the Insurer recommends a settlement within the policy's applicable Limit of Liability which is acceptable to the claimant (a "Settlement Opportunity") and the Insured(s) consents to such settlement, then each Insured's retention amount shall be retroactively reduced by twenty-five percent (25%).

However, if a Settlement Opportunity arises in connection with any Claim (regardless of type) and the Insured(s) do not consent to the settlement within the timeframe described below, the retention amount shall remain the applicable amount set forth in the Schedule even if consent is given to a subsequent settlement.

The Insured(s) must consent to a Settlement Opportunity within thirty (30) days of the date the Insured(s) are first made aware of the Settlement Opportunity, or in the case of a Settlement Opportunity which arises from a settlement offer by the claimant then within the time permitted by the claimant to accept such settlement offer but no later than thirty (30) days. Furthermore, in the event the Insured(s) do not consent to the settlement within the timeframe described herein, the Insurer's liability for the Claim shall not exceed the amount for which the Insurer could have settled the Claim plus Defense Costs incurred up to the date of the refusal to settle.

In the event the Insured(s) refuse to consent to a Settlement Opportunity, the Insurer shall have the right but not the obligation to continue the defense of the Claim after the date of the refusal to settle and may in such a case, at any time after the date of the refusal to settle, withdraw from the further defense of the Claim by tendering control of the defense to the Insured.

In all events, the Insurer shall not be obligated to settle any Claim, pay any Loss or undertake or continue defense of any Claim after the applicable Limit of Liability has been exhausted by settlement of a Claim(s) or payment of Loss. In each such case, the Insurer shall have the right to withdraw from the further defense of the Claim by tendering control of the defense to the Insured(s).

The Insured(s) shall not admit liability for or settle any Claim or incur any Defense Costs without the Insurer's prior written consent. The Insured(s) shall give the Insurer and defense counsel full cooperation and such information as the Insurer and defense counsel reasonably request; including upon the Insurer's request, assisting in making settlements in the conduct of Claims, attending hearings, trials, arbitrations, mediations, and assisting in securing and giving evidence and obtaining the attendance of witnesses.

If all Insured defendants are able to dispose of all Claims which are subject to one retention amount for an amount not exceeding the

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retention amount (inclusive of Defense Costs), then the Insured's consent to such disposition shall not be required for such Claims.

2. DEFINITIONS

- (a) "Approved Activity" means a service or activity performed by the Registered Representative on behalf of the Broker/Dealer which:
 - (1) has been approved by the Broker/Dealer to be performed by the Registered Representative, and is
 - (2) in connection with the purchase or sale of a specific security, annuity or insurance product which has been approved by the Broker/Dealer to be transacted through the Registered Representative, and for which
 - (3) the Registered Representative has obtained all licenses required by the Broker/Dealer or applicable law or regulation
- (b) "Broker/Dealer" means the Broker/Dealer designated in the Schedule and any Subsidiary thereof.
- (c) "Claim" means the following brought by an Insured's customer or client in such capacity:
 - (1) a written demand for monetary relief; or
 - (2) a civil or arbitration proceeding for monetary or non-monetary relief which is commenced by:
 - (i) service of a complaint or similar pleading; or
 - (ii) receipt or filing of an arbitration demand or statement of claim.
- (d) "Defense Costs" means reasonable and necessary fees, costs and expenses consented to by the Insurer (including premiums for any appeal bond, attachment bond or similar bond, but without any obligation to apply for or furnish any such bond) resulting solely from the investigation, adjustment, defense and appeal of a Claim against an Insured(s), but excluding salaries of any insured.
- (e) "Failing to Supervise" means the failure to create, implement, enact or enforce any applicable supervisory procedures required by law, common or statutory, regulation, governmental authority or regulation authority or self-regulatory authority, including but not limited to the procedures established by the National Association of Securities Dealers as outlined in Section 3010 of the NASD, Inc. Manual, and any amendments thereto.
- (f) "Insured" means:
 - (1) the Broker/Dealer
 - (2) any past, present or future director, officer, partner or employee of the Broker/Dealer, and
 - (3) any past, present or future Registered Representatives of the Broker/Dealer.

(g) "Interrelated Wrongful Act(s)" means Wrongful Acts which are the same, related or continuous, or Wrongful Acts which arise from the same, related or common nexus of facts regardless of whether such Claims involve the same or different claimants, Insureds or legal causes of action. Further, and without limiting the aforementioned, the following Claims shall automatically be deemed to allege Interrelated Wrongful Acts:

1. Claims in connection with securities of any entity (or affiliated entities) which become(s) the subject of any bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, liquidation or reorganization proceeding, or
2. Claims in connection with securities purchased in connection with an offering (or series of offerings) of securities issued by the same entity or affiliated entities;

(h) "Investment Banking Activity" means, but is not limited to, the underwriting, syndicating or promotion of any security or partnership interest in connection with any of the following: any actual, alleged or threatened merger, acquisition, divestiture, tender offer, proxy contest, leveraged buy-out, going private transaction, reorganization (voluntary or involuntary), capital restructuring, recapitalization, spin-offs, primary or secondary offerings of securities (regardless of whether the offering is a public offering or private placement), dissolution or sale of all or substantially all of the assets or stock of a business entity, or effort to raise or furnish capital or financing for any enterprise or entity, or any acquisition or sale of securities by the Broker/Dealer for its own account, or any activity by any Insured as a specialist or market maker (including the failure to make a market) for any securities, or any disclosure requirements in connection with any of the foregoing. Investment Banking also includes the rendering of advice or recommendations or the rendering of a written opinion in connection with any of the foregoing.

(i) "Loss" means damages, judgements, settlements and Defense Costs; however, Loss shall not include:

- (1) salaries of any Insured;
- (2) the cost of complying with any settlement for or award of non-monetary relief;
- (3) civil or criminal fines or penalties imposed by law, punitive or exemplary damages, the multiplied portion of multiplied damages, taxes, any amounts for which the Insureds are not financially liable or which are without legal recourse to the Insureds, or matters which may be deemed uninsurable under the law pursuant to which this policy shall be construed; notwithstanding the foregoing, Loss shall include awards of punitive or exemplary damages (where insurable by law) in an amount not greater than the amount of compensatory damages award; and
- (4) fees, commissions, or other compensation for any Professional Services rendered or required to be rendered by the Insured or that portion of any settlement or award in an amount equal to such fees, commissions, or other compensation.

Loss arising from Claim(s) alleging the same Wrongful Act or Interrelated Wrongful Acts shall be deemed a single Loss under this policy.

- (l) "Policy Period" means the period from the inception date of this policy shown in the Schedule to the earlier of the expiration date shown in the Schedule or the effective date of cancellation of this policy.
- (k) "Professional Services" means the following services if rendered in connection with an Approved Activity for or on the behalf of a customer or client of the Broker/Dealer pursuant to a written agreement between the Broker/Dealer and the customer or client:
 - (1) purchase or sale of securities, including investment companies,
 - (2) purchase or sale of annuities or variable annuities,
 - (3) purchase or sale of life or accident and health insurance,
 - (4) providing brokerage services for individual retirement accounts (IRA's), Keogh retirement plans and employee benefit plans (other than multiple employer or multiemployee welfare arrangements),
 - (5) services performed as a registered investment advisor but only if and to the extent such coverage is added to this policy by specific written endorsement attached hereto;

and in connection with or incidental to any of the foregoing 5 activities:

- (6) providing economic advice, financial advice or investment advisory services, or
- (7) providing financial planning advice including without limitation any of the following activities in conjunction therewith: the preparation of a financial plan or personal financial statements, the giving of advice relating to personal risk management, insurance, savings, investments, retirement planning or taxes.

- (l) "Registered Representative" means an individual who is registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., including a registered principal, and who for compensation engages in the business of rendering Professional Services on behalf of the Broker/Dealer.
- (m) "Subsidiary" means:
 - (1) a corporation of which the Broker/Dealer owns on or before the inception of the Policy Period more than 50% of the issued and outstanding voting stock either directly, or indirectly through one or more of its subsidiaries;
 - (2) automatically a corporation created, or acquired during the Policy Period if the number of registered representatives of such other corporation total less than 10% of the total number of Registered Representatives of the Broker/Dealer as of inception date of this policy. The Broker/Dealer shall provide the Insurer with full particulars of the new Subsidiary before the end of the Policy Period;
 - (3) a corporation created, or acquired during the Policy Period (other than a corporation described in paragraph (2) above) but only upon the condition that within 90 days of its becoming a Subsidiary, the Broker/Dealer shall have provided the Insurer with full particulars of the new Subsidiary and agreed to any additional premium and/or

amendment of the provisions of this policy required by the Insurer relating to such new Subsidiary. Further, coverage as shall be afforded to the new Subsidiary is conditioned upon the Broker/Dealer paying when due any additional premium required by the Insurer relating to such new Subsidiary.

A Broker/Dealer creates or acquires a Subsidiary when the Broker/Dealer owns more than 50% of the issued and outstanding voting stock, either directly, or indirectly through one or more of its Subsidiaries. A corporation ceases to be a Subsidiary when the Broker/Dealer ceases to own more than 50% of the issued and outstanding voting stock, either directly, or indirectly through one or more of its Subsidiaries.

in all events, coverage as is afforded with respect to a Claim made against a Subsidiary or any director, officer, employee or Registered Representative thereof shall only apply for Wrongful Acts committed or allegedly committed after the effective time that such Subsidiary became a Subsidiary and prior to the time that such Subsidiary ceased to be a Subsidiary.

(n) "Wrongful Act" means any act, error or omission by the Broker/Dealer, any director, officer, partner or employee thereof, or by any Registered Representative, in their respective capacities as such.

3. EXTENSIONS

Subject otherwise to the terms hereof, this policy shall cover Loss arising from a Claim made against the estates, heirs, or legal representatives of any deceased individual Insured, and the legal representatives of such individual Insured in the event of incompetency, insolvency or bankruptcy, who were individual Insured at the time the Wrongful Acts upon which such Claims are based were committed.

Subject otherwise to the terms hereof, this policy shall cover Loss arising from a Claim made against the lawful spouse (whether such status is derived by reason of statutory law, common law or otherwise of any applicable jurisdiction in the world) of an individual Insured for a Claim arising solely out of his or her status as the spouse of an individual Insured, including a Claim that seeks damages recoverable from marital community property, property jointly held by the individual Insured and the spouse, or property transferred from the individual Insured to the spouse; provided, however, that this extension shall not afford coverage for any Claim for any actual or alleged Wrongful Acts of the spouse, but shall apply only to Claims arising out of any actual or alleged Wrongful Acts of an individual Insured, subject to the policy's terms, conditions and exclusions.

4. EXCLUSIONS

The Insurer shall not be liable for Loss in connection with any Claim made against an Insured:

- a) arising out of, based upon or attributable to the gaining in fact any profit or advantage to which the Insured was not legally entitled, including but not limited to any actual or alleged commingling of funds or accounts;
- b) arising out of, based upon or attributable to the committing in fact of: any criminal or deliberately fraudulent act, or any willful violation of any law of the United States or Canada, or any state, territory, county, political division or municipality thereof, or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder;

- c) for bodily injury, sickness, disease, death or emotional distress of any person, or damage to or destruction of any tangible property, including the loss of use thereof, or for injury from libel or slander or defamation or disparagement, or for injury from a violation of a person's right of privacy.
- d) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any bankruptcy, insolvency, conservatorship, receivership or liquidation of, or suspension of payment or refusal to pay by any broker or dealer in securities or commodities, clearing agency, or any bank or banking firm, or any insurance or reinsurance entity or any Insured; provided, however, this exclusion will not apply to Wrongful Acts solely in connection with any Insured's investment on the behalf of the claimant in the stock of any of the foregoing entities;
- e) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any Wrongful Act occurring prior to the inception date of the first Securities Broker/Dealer's Errors And Omissions policy or Securities Brokers Professional Liability Insurance policy issued to the Broker/Dealer designated in the Schedule by the Insurer and continuously renewed and maintained in effect thereafter to the inception date of this policy, if on or before such date any Insured knew or could have reasonably foreseen that such Wrongful Act could lead to a Claim, or alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any subsequent Interrelated Wrongful Act;
- f) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any Wrongful Act occurring prior to the Retroactive Date stated in the Schedule or arising out of any subsequent Interrelated Wrongful Act;
- g) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any: (i) employee benefit plan or trust sponsored by any Insured or sponsored by any business enterprise that is operated or managed or owned, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, by any Insured; or (ii) any plan in which an Insured is a participant or is a named fiduciary; or arising out of, based upon or attributable to any services performed by any Insured acting in fact as a trustee, administrator or fiduciary under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or amendments thereto, or any similar federal or state statutory law or any regulation or order issued pursuant thereto;
- h) brought by or on behalf of any Insured, or the successors or assigns of any Insured; or by or on behalf of any enterprise, trust or other entity that is operated or managed or owned, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, by any Insured; or for which any Insured is a trustee, fiduciary, director or officer thereof;
- i) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to, in whole or in part, any Investment Banking Activity by an Insured, including but not limited to any disclosure requirements in connection with the foregoing; provided, however, that this exclusion shall not apply to Claims arising out of the sale by an Insured to a particular client or customer of any open-ended investment company or variable annuity which alleges that a client or customer of the Broker/Dealer was unsuitable for and wrongfully placed into such investment company or variable annuity.
- j) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to the facts alleged, or arising out of the same or Interrelated Wrongful Acts alleged or contained in any Claim which has been reported, or in any circumstances of which notice has been given, under any policy of which this policy is a renewal or replacement or which it may succeed in time;
- k) brought by or on behalf of any clearing agency, or alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any function of any Insured as a clearing agency;

- l) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any: use by any insured of, or aiding or abetting by any insured in the use of, or participating after the fact by any insured in the use of, non-public information in a manner prohibited by the laws of the United States, including, but not limited to, the Insider Trading and Securities Fraud Enforcement Act of 1988 (as amended), Section 10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (as amended) and Rule 10b-5 thereunder, any state, commonwealth, territory or subdivision thereof, or the laws of any other jurisdiction, or any rules or regulations promulgated under any of the foregoing;
- m) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to the purchase or sale of (or failure to purchase or sell) any of the following, or any advice in connection therewith:
 - 1) commodities, futures contracts, forwards contracts or any type of option or futures contract, or any similar investment or investment product; or
 - 2) any collectible, including but not limited to stamps, art, cards, jewelry, antiques or any other tangible personal property; or
 - 3) any equity security priced under \$5.00 at the time that the Wrongful Act triggering such Claim arose; however, this exclusion shall not apply if the security is:
 - (i) registered, or approved for registration upon notice of issuance, on a national securities exchange; or
 - (ii) authorized, or approved for authorization upon notice of issuance, for quotation in the NASDAQ National Market System or the NASDAQ SmallCap Market; or
 - (iii) issued by an investment company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (as amended); or
 - 4) any security in any market outside of the United States of America and its territories and possessions and Canada; or
 - 5) annuities used in connection with any structured settlement;
- n) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any mechanical or electronic failure, breakdown or malfunction of machines or systems;
- o) brought by or on behalf of, or instigated or continued with the solicitation, assistance, participation or intervention of, any State or Federal regulatory or administrative agency or bureau or any other governmental, quasi-governmental or self-regulatory entity ("Governmental Entity"), whether directly or indirectly, and whether brought in its capacity as trustee, liquidator, or assignee of the Broker/Dealer, or in any other capacity and whether brought in its own name or in the name of any other entity; however, this exclusion shall not apply to any Claim brought solely in such Governmental Entity's capacity as a customer or client of the Broker/Dealer and instigated and continued totally independent of, and totally without the solicitation of, or assistance of, or active participation of, or intervention of, any insured.
- p) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to rendering of or failure to render any of the following services or activities:

- (i) actuarial,
- (ii) accounting,
- (iii) legal,
- (iv) real estate agent or broker, or
- (v) tax preparation or appearing before the Internal Revenue Service as an enrolled agent;
- q) for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act in rendering or failure to render Professional Services to any securities broker/dealer; however this exclusion shall not apply if the Professional Service is solely the purchase or sale of securities to such broker/dealer for its own account;
- r) with respect to coverage provided under Coverage B only, alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any activity of, or service provided by, the Registered Representative other than a covered Professional Service, including but not limited to "selling away";
- s) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to an Insured exercising discretionary authority or control with regard to management or disposition of assets; however, this exclusion shall not apply to any Insured's purchase or sale of no-load investment company or variable annuities in which there is no initial or contingent sales charge or commission;
- t) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to, or in any way involving, directly or indirectly, the formation, operation, administration or management by an Insured, in part or in whole, of any entity other than the Broker/Dealer including but not limited to general partnerships, including but not limited to Claims arising out of an Insured acting as a general partner of any limited partnership and/or managing general partner of any general partnership;
- u) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to any liability assumed by the Insured under any indemnification contract or agreement, either oral or in writing; however, this exclusion does not apply to liability that would exist in the absence of such contract or agreement;
- v) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to employment or work place practices, including claims arising under worker compensation laws or claims in respect of alleged discrimination, harassment or inappropriate employment conduct of any sort.;
- w) alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to the presence or actual, alleged, or threatened discharge, seepage, dispersal, migration, release, escape, generation, transportation, storage, or disposal of pollutants at any time, including any request, demand or order that the Insured or others test for, monitor, clean up, remove, assess, or respond to the effects of pollutants. Pollutants means any solid, liquid, gaseous or thermal irritant or contaminant, including but not limited to smoke, vapor, soot, fumes, odors, acids, alkalis, chemicals and waste. Waste includes materials to be recycled, reconditioned or reclaimed

5. LIMITS OF LIABILITY

The Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule as "each Loss" is the limit of the Insurer's liability for all Loss arising out of all Claims alleging the same Wrongful Act or Interrelated Wrongful Act. This "each Loss" limit shall be part of and not in addition to

the "aggregate for all Loss" limit set forth in the Schedule as well as the "Policy Aggregate" limit set forth in the Schedule, as described below.

The Limits of Liability stated in the Schedule as "aggregate for all Loss" is the total limit of the Insurer's liability for all Loss arising out of all Claims first made against the Insureds during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance with the terms herein. This "aggregate for all Loss" limit shall be part of and not in addition to the "Policy Aggregate" limit set forth in the Schedule, as described below.

The Limits of Liability stated in the Schedule whether as "each loss" or "aggregate for all Loss" shall apply to Claims first made against the Insureds during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance with the terms herein for which coverage is provided, in whole or in part, under Insuring Agreement A.3.

The Limits of Liability stated in the Schedule whether as "each loss" or "aggregate for all Loss" shall apply to Claims first made against the Insureds during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance with the terms herein for which coverage is provided by this policy other than a Claim for which coverage is provided, in whole or in part, under Insuring Agreement A.3.

The Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule is the aggregate total limit of the Insurer's liability for Loss arising out of all Claims first made against the Insureds during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance with the terms herein under this policy.

The Limit of Liability for the Discovery Period shall be part of, and not in addition to, the applicable Limit of Liability for the Policy Period. Further, a Claim which is made subsequent to the Policy Period or the Discovery Period (if applicable) which pursuant to Clause 8(b) or 8(c) is considered made during the Policy Period or the Discovery Period shall also be subject to the aggregate Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule.

Defense Costs are not payable by the Insurer in addition to the Limit of Liability. Defense Costs are part of Loss and as such are subject to the Limit of Liability for Loss.

6. RETENTION

The Insurer shall only be liable for the amount of Loss arising from a Claim which is in excess of the applicable Retention Amount stated in the Schedule, such Retention Amount to be borne by the Insureds and shall remain uninsured with regard to all Loss arising from any Claim.

The Retention stated in the Schedule as the "Broker/Dealer Retention" shall apply to Claims for which coverage is provided under Insuring Agreement A of this policy.

The Retention stated in the Schedule as the "Registered Representative Retention" shall apply to Claims for which coverage is provided under Insuring Agreement B of this policy except for those Claims described immediately below.

The Retention stated in the Schedule as "Registered Representative Life Products Retention" shall apply to Claims solely arising from the purchase or sale of life, health and accident insurance (including advice in connection therewith) for which coverage is provided under Insuring Agreement B of this policy.

In the event of a Claim (or Claim alleging Interrelated Wrongful Acts) for which more than one retention amount set forth in the Schedule is applicable, then all such



retentions shall apply to the Claim(s); provided, however, that the maximum retention amount shall not exceed the highest applicable single retention amount.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event the Insured consents to a Settlement Opportunity under the circumstances as described in Insuring Agreement C.2. of this policy, the applicable retention shall be reduced in the amount described in Insuring Agreement C.2.

7. NOTICE/CLAIM REPORTING PROVISIONS

Notice hereunder shall be given in writing to Underwriter representatives as denoted in the Schedule page. If mailed, the date of mailing shall constitute the date that such notice was given and proof of mailing shall be sufficient proof of notice.

- (a) The Broker/Dealer or the Insured shall, as a condition precedent to the obligations of the Insurer under this policy, give written notice to the Insurer of a Claim made against an Insured as soon as practicable during the Policy Period or during the Discovery Period (if applicable) as long as such Claim(s) is reported no later than 30 days after the date such Claim was first made against an Insured.
- (b) If written notice of a Claim has been given to the Insurer pursuant to Clause 8 (a) above, then a Claim which is subsequently made against the Insureds and reported to the Insurer alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to the facts alleged in the Claim for which such notice has been given, or alleging any Wrongful Act which is the same as or related to any Wrongful Act alleged in the Claim of which such notice has been given, shall be considered made at the time such notice was given.
- (c) If during the Policy Period or during the Discovery Period (if applicable) the Broker/Dealer or the Insureds shall become aware of any circumstances which may reasonably be expected to give rise to a Claim being made against the Insureds and shall give written notice to the Insurer of the circumstances and the reasons for anticipating such a Claim, with full particulars as to dates, persons and entities involved, then a Claim which is subsequently made against the Insureds and reported to the Insurer alleging, arising out of, based upon or attributable to such circumstances or alleging any Wrongful Act which is the same as or related to any Wrongful Act alleged or contained in such circumstances, shall be considered made at the time such notice of such circumstances was given.

8. PROTECTION FOR INNOCENT INSURED

Whenever coverage under this policy would be excluded under Exclusion a) or b) because an Insured committed a criminal or deliberately fraudulent act; or wilfully violated the law or gained a profit or advantage to which the Insured was not legally entitled, the coverage otherwise afforded under this policy to a natural person Insured will continue to apply to each such Insured who did not personally commit or personally participate in committing such criminal or deliberately fraudulent act; did not wilfully violate the law or gain a profit or advantage; and did not personally acquiesce in or remain passive after having personal knowledge or becoming aware of one or more such acts, wilful violation or improper gain as set forth in Exclusions a) and b).

9. CANCELLATION CLAUSE

This policy may be cancelled by the Broker/Dealer first named in the Schedule at any time only by mailing written prior notice to the Insurer stating when thereafter such cancellation shall be effective, or by surrender of this policy to the Insurer or its authorized agent. This policy may also be cancelled by or on behalf of the Insurer by delivering to the Broker/Dealer or by mailing to the Broker/Dealer, by registered, certified, or other first class mail, at the Broker/Dealer's address as shown in the Schedule, written notice stating when, not less than sixty (60) days thereafter, or ten (10) days thereafter in the event of nonpayment of premium when due, the cancellation shall be effective. The mailing of such notice as aforesaid shall be sufficient proof of notice. The Policy Period terminates at the date and hour specified in such notice, or at the date and time of surrender.

If this policy shall be cancelled by the Broker/Dealer, the Insurer shall retain the customary short rate proportion of the premium heron.

If this policy shall be cancelled by the Insurer, the Insurer shall retain the pro rata proportion of the premium hereon.

Payment or tender of any unearned premium by the Insurer shall not be a condition precedent to the effectiveness of cancellation, but such payment shall be made as soon as practicable. If the period of limitation relating to the giving of notice is prohibited or made void by any law controlling the construction thereof, such period shall be deemed to be amended so as to be equal to the minimum period of limitation permitted by such law.

10. CHANGE IN CONTROL OF BROKER/DEALER

If during the Policy Period:

- a. the Broker/Dealer shall consolidate with or merge into, or sell all or substantially all of its assets to any other person or entity or group of persons and/or entities acting in concert; or
- b. any person or entity or group of persons and/or entities acting in concert shall acquire an amount of the outstanding securities representing more than 50% of the voting power for the election of directors of the Broker/Dealer, or acquires the voting rights of such an amount of such securities;

(either of the above events herein referred to as the "Transaction")

then, this policy shall continue in full force and effect as to Wrongful Acts occurring prior to the effective time of the Transaction, but there shall be no coverage afforded by any provision of this policy for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act occurring after the effective time of the Transaction. This policy may not be canceled after the effective time of the Transaction and the entire premium for this policy shall be deemed earned as of such time. The Broker/Dealer shall also have the right to an offer by the Insurer of a Discovery Period described in Clause 10 of the policy.

The Broker/Dealer shall give the Insurer written notice of the Transaction as soon as practicable, but not later than 30 days after the effective date of the Transaction.

11. SUBROGATION

In the event of any payment under this policy, the Insurer shall be subrogated to the extent of such payment to all the Broker/Dealer's and the Insureds' rights of recovery



thereof, and the Broker/Dealer and the Insureds shall execute all papers required and shall do everything that may be necessary to secure such rights including the execution of such documents necessary to enable the Insurer effectively to bring suit in the name of the Broker/Dealer and/or the Insureds. In no event, however, shall the Insurer exercise its rights to subrogation against an Insured under this policy unless such Insured has been convicted of a criminal act, or been judicially determined to have committed a deliberate fraudulent act, or obtained any profit or advantage to which such Insured was not legally entitled, or arising out of an act other than a covered Professional Service or Broker/Dealer service by such other Insured.

12. OTHER INSURANCE

Such insurance as is provided by this policy shall apply only as excess over any other valid and collectible insurance.

13. NOTICE AND AUTHORITY

It is agreed that the Broker/Dealer first named in the Schedule shall act on behalf of Insureds with respect to the giving of notice of Claim or giving and receiving notice of cancellation, the payment of premiums and the receiving of any return premiums that may become due under this policy, the receipt and acceptance of any endorsements issued to form a part of this policy and the exercising or declining to exercise any right to a Discovery Period. Notice to any agent or knowledge possessed by any agent or any other person shall not effect a waiver or a change in any part of this policy or stop the Insurer from asserting any right under the terms of this policy; nor shall the terms of this policy be waived or changed except by endorsement issued to form a part of this policy and signed by an authorized representative of the Insurer.

14. TERRITORY

This policy applies to Claims which are bought anywhere in the World.

15. ASSIGNMENT

This policy and any and all rights hereunder are not assignable without the written consent of the Insurer.

16. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCESS

It is hereby understood and agreed that all disputes or differences which may arise under or in connection with this policy, whether arising before or after termination of this policy, including any determination of the amount of Loss, shall be subject to the alternative dispute resolution process ("ADR") set forth in this clause.

Either the Insurer or the Insured(s) may elect the type of ADR discussed below; provided, however, that the Insureds shall have the right to reject the Insurer's choice of ADR at any time prior to its commencement, in which case the Insureds' choice of ADR shall control.

The Insurer and Insured(s) agree that there shall be two choices of ADR: (1) non-binding mediation administered by the America Arbitration Association, in which the Insurer and Insureds shall try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation under or in accordance with its then-prevailing Commercial Mediation Rules; or (2) arbitration submitted to the America Arbitration Association under or in accordance with its then-prevailing commercial arbitration rules, in which the arbitration panel shall be composed of three disinterested individuals. In either mediation or arbitration, the mediator(s) or arbitrators shall have knowledge of the legal, corporate management, or insurance issues relevant to the matters in dispute. The mediator(s) or arbitrators

shall also give due consideration to the general principles of the law of the state where the Broker/Dealer is incorporated in the construction or interpretation of the provisions of this policy; provided, however, that the terms, conditions, provisions and exclusions of this policy are to be construed in an even-handed fashion in the manner most consistent with the relevant terms, conditions, provisions or exclusions of the policy. In the event of arbitration, the decision of the arbitrators shall be final and binding and provided to both parties, and the arbitrators' award shall not include attorneys fees or other costs. In the event of mediation, either party shall have the right to commence a judicial proceeding; provided, however, that no such judicial proceeding shall be commenced until the mediation shall have been terminated and at least 120 days shall have elapsed from the date of the termination of the mediation. In all events, each party shall share equally the expenses of the ADR.

Either choice of ADR may be commenced in either New York, New York; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Denver, Colorado; or in the state indicated in the Schedule page as the mailing address for the Broker/Dealer. The Broker/Dealer shall act on behalf of all Insureds in deciding to proceed with ADR under this clause.

17. ACTION AGAINST INSURER

Except as provided in Clause 18 of this policy, no action shall lie against the Insurer unless, as a condition precedent thereto, there shall have been full compliance with all of the terms of this policy, nor until the amount of the Insureds' obligation to pay shall have been finally determined either by judgment against the Insureds after actual trial or by written agreement of the Insureds, the claimant and the Insurer.

Any person or organization or the legal representative thereof who has secured such judgment or written agreement shall thereafter be entitled to recover under this policy to the extent of the insurance afforded by this policy. No person or organization shall have any right under this policy to join the Insurer as a party to any action against the Insureds or the Broker/Dealer to determine the Insureds' liability, nor shall the Insurer be impleaded by the Insureds or the Broker/Dealer or their legal representatives. Bankruptcy or insolvency of the Broker/Dealer or the Insureds or of their estates shall not relieve the Insurer of any of its obligations hereunder.

18. HEADINGS

The descriptions in the headings of this policy are solely for convenience, and form no part of the terms and conditions of coverage.

19. SERVICE OF SUIT CLAUSE (U.S.A.)

This Clause is not intended to conflict with or override the parties' obligation to arbitrate their disputes in accordance with Clause 18

It is agreed that in the event of the failure of the Underwriters hereon to pay any amount claimed to be due hereunder, the Underwriters hereon, at the request of the Insured (or Reinsured), will submit to the jurisdiction of a Court of competent jurisdiction within the United States. Nothing in this Clause constitutes or should be understood to constitute a waiver of Underwriters' rights to commence an action in any Court of competent jurisdiction in the United States, to remove an action to a United States District Court, or to seek a transfer of a case to another Court as permitted by the laws of the United States or of any State in the United States.

It is further agreed that service of process in such suit may be made upon Sedgwick, Detert, Moran & Arnold, 125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004, USA, and that in any suit instituted against any one of them upon this contract, Underwriters will abide by the final decision of such Court or of any Appellate Court in the event of an appeal.

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The above-named are authorized and directed to accept service of process on behalf of Underwriters in any such suit and/or upon the request of the Insured (or Reinsured) to give a written undertaking to the Insured (or Reinsured) that they will enter a general appearance upon Underwriters' behalf in the event such a suit shall be instituted.

Further, pursuant to any statute of any state, territory or district of the United States which makes provision therefore Underwriters hereon hereby designate the Superintendent, Commissioner or Director of Insurance or other officer specified for that purpose in the statute, or his successor or successors in office, as their true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served any lawful process in any action, suit or proceeding instituted by or on behalf of the Insured (or Reinsured) or any beneficiary hereunder arising out of this contract of insurance (or reinsurance), and hereby designate the above-named as the person to whom the said officer is authorized to mail such process or a true copy thereof.

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The following clause(s) attach to and form part of the contract.

ASBESTOS AND TOXIC MOULD EXCLUSION

This insurance does not cover any liability whatsoever arising directly or indirectly out of or resulting from or in consequence of, or in any way involving:-

- (a) Asbestos, or any materials containing asbestos in whatever form or quantity; or
- (b) The actual, potential, alleged or threatened formation, growth, presence, release or dispersal of any fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins of any kind; or
- (c) Any action taken by any party in response to the actual, potential, alleged or threatened formation, growth, presence, release or dispersal of fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins of any kind, such action to include investigating, testing for, detection of, monitoring of, treating, remediating or removing such fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins; or
- (d) Any governmental or regulatory order, requirement, directive, mandate or decree that any party take action in response to the actual, potential, alleged or threatened formation, growth, presence, release or dispersal of fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins of any kind, such action to include investigating, testing for, detection of, monitoring of, treating, remediating or removing such fungi, moulds, spores or mycotoxins.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

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FAILURE TO MAINTAIN EXCLUSION

It is hereby understood and agreed that the Insurer shall not be liable to make any payment for Loss based on, arising from, attributable to, or contributed to, by any failure to effect or maintain insurance of any kind whether such failure concerns the amount, existence or adequacy of such insurance.

All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

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U.S.A.

NUCLEAR INCIDENT EXCLUSION CLAUSE-LIABILITY-DIRECT (BROAD)
 (Approved by Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association)

For attachment to insurances of the following classifications in the U.S.A., its Territories and Possessions, Puerto Rico and the Canal Zone:-

Owners, Landlords and Tenants Liability, Contractual Liability, Elevator Liability, Owners or Contractors (including railroad) Protective Liability, Manufacturers and Contractors Liability, Product Liability, Professional and Malpractice Liability, Storekeepers Liability, Garage Liability, Automobile Liability (including Massachusetts Motor Vehicle or Garage Liability),

not being insurances of the classification to which the Nuclear Incident Exclusion Clause-Liability-Direct (Limited) applies.

This Policy*

does not apply:-

- I. Under any Liability Coverage, to injury, sickness, disease, death or destruction
 - (a) with respect to which an insured under the policy is also an insured under a nuclear energy liability policy issued by Nuclear Energy Liability Insurance Association, Mutual Atomic Energy Liability Underwriters or Nuclear Insurance Association of Canada, or would be an insured under any such policy but for its termination upon exhaustion of its limit of liability; or
 - (b) resulting from the hazardous properties of nuclear material and with respect to which (1) any person or organization is required to maintain financial protection pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act 1954, or any law amendatory thereof, or (2) the insured is, or had this policy not been issued would be, entitled to indemnity from the United States of America, or any agency thereof, under any agreement entered into by the United States of America, or any agency thereof, with any person or organization.
- II. Under any Medical Payments Coverage, or under any Supplementary Payments Provision relating to immediate medical or surgical relief, to expenses incurred with respect to bodily injury, sickness, disease or death resulting from the hazardous properties of nuclear material and arising out of the operation of a nuclear facility by any person or organization.
- III. Under any Liability Coverage, to injury, sickness, disease, death or destruction resulting from the hazardous properties of nuclear material, if
 - (a) the nuclear material (1) is at any nuclear facility owned by, or operated by or on behalf of, an insured or (2) has been discharged or dispersed therefrom;
 - (b) the nuclear material is contained in spent fuel or waste at any time possessed, handled, used, processed, stored, transported or disposed of by or on behalf of an insured; or
 - (c) the injury, sickness, disease, death or destruction arises out of the furnishing by an insured of services, materials, parts or equipment in connection with the planning, construction, maintenance, operation or use of any nuclear facility, but if such facility is located within the United States of America, its territories or possessions or Canada, this exclusion (c) applies only to injury to or destruction of property at such nuclear facility.

IV. As used in this endorsement:

"hazardous properties" include radioactive, toxic or explosive properties; "nuclear material" means source material, special nuclear material or byproduct material; "source material", "special nuclear material", and "byproduct material" have the meanings given them in the Atomic Energy Act 1954 or in any law amendatory thereof; "spent fuel" means any fuel element or fuel component, solid or liquid, which has been used or exposed to radiation in a nuclear reactor; "waste" means any waste material (1) containing byproduct material and (2) resulting from the operation by any person or organization of any nuclear facility included within the definition of nuclear facility under paragraph (a) or (b) thereof; "nuclear facility" means

- (a) any nuclear reactor,
- (b) any equipment or device designed or used for (1) separating the isotopes of uranium or plutonium, (2) processing or utilizing spent fuel, or (3) handling, processing or packaging waste,
- (c) any equipment or device used for the processing, fabricating or alloying of special nuclear material if at any time the total amount of such material in the custody of the insured at the premises where such equipment or device is located consists of or contains more than 25 grams of plutonium or uranium 233 or any combination thereof, or more than 250 grams of uranium 235,
- (d) any structure, basin, excavation, premises or place prepared or used for the storage or disposal of waste,

and includes the site on which any of the foregoing is located, all operations conducted on such site and all premises used for such operations; "nuclear reactor" means any apparatus designed or used to sustain nuclear fission in a self-supporting chain reaction or to contain a critical mass of fissionable material.

With respect to injury to or destruction of property, the word "injury" or "destruction" includes all forms of radioactive contamination of property.

It is understood and agreed that, except as specifically provided in the foregoing to the contrary, this clause is subject to the terms, exclusions, conditions and limitations of the Policy to which it is attached.

***NOTE:-** As respects policies which afford liability coverages and other forms of coverage in addition, the words underlined should be amended to designate the liability coverage to which this clause is to apply.

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PREMIUM PAYMENT WARRANTY

IT IS WARRANTED that all Premiums due to the Underwriters under this Policy are paid within the amount of days as shown in the Schedule from Inception.

Non-receipt by Underwriters of such premiums by Midnight on the Premium Due date shall render this Insurance Policy void with effect from Inception.

All other terms, conditions and limitations remain unaltered.

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RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION EXCLUSION CLAUSE-LIABILITY-DIRECT
(Approved by Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association)

For attachment (in addition to the appropriate Nuclear Incident Exclusion Clause-Liability-Direct) to liability insurances affording worldwide coverage.

In relation to liability arising outside the U.S.A., its Territories or Possessions, Puerto Rico or the Canal Zone, this Policy does not cover any liability of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by or contributed to by or arising from ionising radiations or contamination by radioactivity from any nuclear fuel or from any nuclear waste from the combustion of nuclear fuel.

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RETROACTIVE CLAUSE

It is hereby noted and agreed that Underwriters shall not be liable for any Claim or Claims arising out of or in any way involving any act, error or omission committed or alleged to have been committed prior to the Retroactive Date stated in the Schedule.

Subject otherwise to the Policy terms and conditions.

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**SERVICE OF SUIT CLAUSE (U.S.A.)**

It is agreed that in the event of the failure of the Underwriters hereon to pay any amount claimed to be due hereunder, the Underwriters hereon at the request of the Insured (or Reinsured), will submit to the jurisdiction of a Court of competent jurisdiction within the United States. Nothing in this Clause constitutes or should be understood to constitute a waiver of Underwriters' rights to commence an action in any Court of competent jurisdiction in the United States, to remove an action to a United States District Court, or to seek a transfer of a case to another court as permitted by the laws of the United States or of any State in the United States. It is further agreed that service of process in such suit may be made upon the name and address as shown in the Schedule, and that in any suit instituted against any one of them upon this contract, Underwriters will abide by the final decision of such Court or of any Appellate Court in the event of an appeal.

The above referred to service of process nominee is authorised and directed to accept service of process on behalf of Underwriters in any such suit and/or upon the request of the Insured (or Reinsured), to give a written undertaking to the Insured (or Reinsured), that they will enter a general appearance upon Underwriters' behalf in the event such a suit shall be instituted.

Further, pursuant to any statute of any state, territory or district of the United States which makes provision therefor, Underwriters hereon hereby designate the Superintendent, Commissioner or Director of Insurance or other officer specified for that purpose in the statute, or his successor or successors in office, as their true and lawful attorney upon whom may be served any lawful process in any action, suit or proceeding instituted by or on behalf of the Insured (or Reinsured), or any beneficiary hereunder arising out of this contract of insurance (or reinsurance), and hereby designate the above-named as the person to whom the said officer is authorised to mail such process or a true copy thereof.

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TERRORISM EXCLUSION ENDORSEMENT (WITH AN EXCEPTION FOR CERTIFIED ACTS OF TERRORISM UNDER THE TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002)

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary within this insurance or any endorsement thereto it is agreed that this insurance excludes loss, damage, cost or expense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in connection with any of the following regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any other sequence to the loss;

- (1) war, invasion, acts of foreign enemies, hostilities or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to an uprising, military or usurped power; or
- (2) any act of terrorism.

For the purpose of this exclusion an act of terrorism means an act, including but not limited to the use of force or violence and/or the threat thereof, of any person or group(s) of persons, whether acting alone or on behalf of or in connection with any organisation(s) or government(s), committed for political, religious, ideological or similar purposes including the intention to influence any government and/or to put the public, or any section of the public, in fear.

This exclusion also excludes loss, damage, cost or expense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in connection with any action taken in controlling, preventing, suppressing or in any way relating to (1) and/or (2) above.

However, this exclusion shall not apply to a certified "act of terrorism" defined by Section 102, Definitions, of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 and any revisions or amendments. For purposes of this endorsement and in compliance with the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, an "act of terrorism" shall mean:

Act of Terrorism –

- (a) Certification - The term "act of terrorism" means any act that is certified by the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States of America, in concurrence with the Secretary of State, and the Attorney General of the United States of America:
 - (i) to be an act of terrorism;
 - (ii) to be a violent act or an act that is dangerous to:
 - (I) human life;
 - (II) property; or
 - (III) infrastructure;
 - (iii) to have resulted in damage within the United States of America, or outside of the United States of America in the case of :
 - (I) an air carrier or vessel described in paragraph (5)(B); [for the convenience of this endorsement, paragraph (5)(B) reads: occurs to an air carrier (as defined in Section 40102 of title 49, United States Code) to a United States flag vessel (or a vessel based principally in the United States of America, on which United States income tax is paid and whose insurance coverage is

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subject to regulation in the United States of America), regardless of where the loss occurs, or at the premises of any United States mission];

(II) the premises of a United States mission; and

(iv) to have been committed by an individual or individuals acting on behalf of any foreign person or foreign interest, as part of an effort to coerce the civilian population of the United States of America or to influence the policy or affect the conduct of the United States Government by coercion.

(b) Limitation - No act shall be certified by the Secretary as an act of terrorism if:

(i) the act is committed as part of the course of a war declared by the Congress, except that this clause shall not apply with respect to any coverage for workers' compensation; or

(ii) property and casualty insurance losses resulting from the act, in the aggregate, do not exceed \$5,000,000.

(c) Determinations Final - Any certification of, or determination not to certify, an act as an act of terrorism under this paragraph shall be final, and shall not be subject to judicial review.

(d) Non-delegation - The Secretary may not delegate or designate to any other officer, employee, or person, any determination under this paragraph of whether, during the effective period of the Program, an act of terrorism has occurred.

In the event any portion of this exclusion is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

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WAR AND TERRORISM EXCLUSION ENDORSEMENT
NMA2918 (AMENDED)

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary within this insurance or any endorsement thereto it is agreed that this insurance excludes loss, damage, cost or expense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in connection with any of the following regardless of any other cause or event contributing concurrently or in any other sequence to the loss;

- (1) war, invasion, acts of foreign enemies, hostilities or warlike operations (whether war be declared or not), civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection, civil commotion assuming the proportions of or amounting to an uprising, military or usurped power; or
- (2) any act of terrorism.

For the purpose of this endorsement an act of terrorism means an act of force or violence and/or the threat thereof, of any person or group(s) of persons, whether acting alone or on behalf of or in connection with any organisation(s) or government(s), committed for political, religious or ideological purposes to influence any government and to put the public, or any section of the public, in fear.

This endorsement also excludes loss, damage, cost or expense of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly caused by, resulting from or in connection with any action taken in controlling, preventing, suppressing or in any way relating to (1) and/or (2) above.

In the event any portion of this endorsement is found to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

All other terms, conditions and limitations shall remain unaltered.

NMA 2918 (Amended)

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MARKET FLUCTUATION CLAUSE (BRIT VERSION)

It is hereby understood and agreed that 4. EXCLUSIONS hereunder is deemed to be amended to include the following:

- x) arising out of, based upon or attributable to any legal liability arising from any claim of depreciation (or failure to appreciate) in value of any investments, including but not limited to securities, leased products, commodities, currencies, options and futures transactions as to which the Assured has expressly or implicitly made a guarantee, representation or warranty as to the performance of such investments.

All other terms remain unchanged.

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AMENDMENT OF CHANGE IN CONTROL ENDORSEMENT

It is hereby understood and agreed that with effect from inception Clause 12 of the policy is amended as follows.

Effective on the date of acquisition and with regard to those specific assets of Sterling Group of Companies, Inc. to be acquired by Pointe Capital LLC, Clause 12 shall be deleted.

Coverage under this policy shall apply for wrongful acts committed prior to the date of acquisition and until expiration of this policy.

Coverage shall not apply to "Extended Reporting Period" Endorsement as attached.

No additional premium shall apply.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged

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NON-LICENSED BUSINESS ACTIVITY EXCLUSION

This policy shall not cover the Insured, its employees, Agents or Representatives for a claim arising out of an act error or commission arising out of professional services for which the Insured, its Employees, Agents or Representatives did not hold a correct and valid license issued by the appropriate regulatory authority.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

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INTENTIONAL CORPORATE ACTS EXCLUSION

Underwriters shall not liable to make any payment in connection with any Claim for any intentional, Corporate or Business Policy.

Corporate or Business Policy shall mean any policy which has been approved, condoned or endorsed by two or more of the Insured's management and which,

- (a) financially disadvantages all of the Insured's clients or any group or class of the Insured's clients, and
- (b) which results in the Insured making a financial gain to which they were not entitled, whether returned to the client(s) or not.

The Insured's Management shall be deemed to be the Insured's Group Management Committee and their direct reportees.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.



REGISTERED INVESTMENTS ADVISORY ENDORSEMENT
(for Approved Activities)

In consideration of the premium charged it is hereby understood and agreed that, in accordance with Clause 2. (k) (5), coverage as is provided under this policy is extended to include coverage to the Insured(s) in connection with Approved Activities while acting in their capacity as a registered investments advisor, subject to the terms, condition, exclusions and endorsements of this policy. Solely with respect to the coverage provided by this endorsement, the policy is amended as follows:

DECLARATION

Limit of Liability, is amended to include the following:

B.2, Registered Investments Advisory Coverage:	\$1,000,000	each loss (including Defense Costs)
	\$2,000,000	aggregate for all loss (including Defense Costs)

Retention, is amended to include the following:

B.2. Registered Investments Advisor Retentions	\$100,000	each and every Claim
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INSURING AGREEMENT

Clause 1., Insuring Agreement is amended to include the following:

B. REGISTERED REPRESENTATIVE PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

This policy shall pay on behalf of a registered Representative acting in his / her capacity as a Registered Investment Advisor Loss arising from a Claim first made against the Registered Representative during the Policy Period or the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported in writing to the Insurer pursuant to the terms of this policy for any actual or alleged Wrongful Act committed by the registered Representative in the rendering or failure to render Professional Services.

DEFINITIONS

Solely with respect to Coverage provided by this endorsement, Clause 2, Definitions, (a) "Approved Activity" shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

"Approved Activity" means a service or activity performed by the Registered representative in his capacity as a Registered Investments Advisor that;

- (1) has been approved by the Broker / Dealer to be performed by the Registered Representative, and is
- (2) in connection with the purchase or sale of a specific security, annuity or insurance product which has been approved by the Broker / Dealer to be transacted through the registered Representative, and for which

- (3) the Registered Representative has obtained all licenses required by the Broker / Dealer or applicable law or regulation.

Solely with respect to coverage provided by this endorsement, Clause 2, Definitions, (1) "Registered Representatives" shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

- (1) "Registered Representative" means an individual who is registered with the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc., including a registered principal, and who for compensation engages in the business of rendering Professional Services on behalf of the broker / Dealer. Registered Representative shall also mean a registered Representative Company.

Solely with respect to coverage provided by this endorsement Clause 2, Definitions, (k) shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

- (k) "Professional Services" means the following services if rendered in connection with an Approved Activity:
 - (1) purchase or sale of securities, including investments companies.
 - (2) purchase or sale of annuities or variable annuities
 - (3) purchase or sale of life or accident and health insurance.
 - (4) providing brokerage services for individual retirements accounts (IRA's), Keogh retirement plans and employee benefit plans (other than multiple employer or multiemployee welfare arrangements)
 - (5) services performed as a registered investments advisor but only if and to the extent such coverage is added to this policy by specific written endorsements attached hereto.

and in connection with or incidental to any of the foregoing 5 activities:

- (6) providing economic advice, financial advice or investments advisory services, or
- (7) providing financial planning advice including without limitation any of the following activities in conjunction therewith: the preparation of a financial plan or personal financial statements, the giving of advise relating to personal risk management, insurance, savings, investments, retirement planning or taxes.

Clause 2, Definition, is amended to include the following:

- (O) "Registered Representative Company" means any corporation, partnership or other business entity which engages in the conduct of Professional Services and which is either owned or controlled by a Registered Representative or in which a registered Representative is an employee and then only with respect to those operation of the business entity related to Professional Services provided by the Registered Representative.
- (P) "Registered Investment Advisor" means an investments advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or (b) a state securities agency in the U.S.A., or (c) a securities agency of the District of Columbia

LIMIT OF LIABILITY

Solely with respect to Claim(s) for which coverage is provided by this endorsement, Clause 5, Limits of Liability, is amended to include the following:

The Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule as "each Loss" is the limit of the Insurer's liability for all Loss arising out of all Claims alleging the same Wrongful Act or Interrelated Wrongful Act. This "each Loss" limit shall be part of and not in addition to the "aggregate for all Loss" limit set forth in the Schedule as well as the "policy Aggregate" limit set forth in the Schedule, as described below.

The Limits of Liability stated in the Schedule as "aggregate for all Loss" is the total limit of the Insurer's Liability for all Loss arising out of all Claims first made against the Insured's during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance to the "Policy Aggregate" limit set forth in the Schedule, as described below.

In the event of a Claim (or Claims alleging Interrelated Wrongful Acts) for which coverage is provided, in part, under this endorsement and, in part, under any other Insuring Agreement of this policy, then the "each Loss" limit and the "aggregate for all Loss" limit applicable to each coverage shall apply; provided, however, the maximum "each Loss" limit and "aggregate for all Loss" limit with respect to this Claim(s) shall not exceed the highest applicable limit.

The Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule is the aggregate total limit of the Insurer's liability for all Loss arising out of all Claims first made against the Insureds during the Policy Period and the Discovery Period (if applicable) and reported to the Insurer in accordance with the terms herein under this policy.

The Limit of Liability for the Discovery Period shall be part of, and not in addition to, the applicable Limit of Liability for the Policy Period. Further, a claim which is made subsequent to the Policy Period or the Discovery Period (if applicable) which pursuant to Clause 8(b) or 8(c) is considered made during the policy Period or the Discovery Period shall also be subject to the aggregate Limit of Liability stated in the Schedule.

Defense Costs are not payable by the insurer in addition to the Limit of Liability. Defense Costs are part of Loss and as such are subject to the Limit of Liability for Loss.

RETENTION

Clause 6, Retention Clause, is amended by inserting the following paragraph after the third paragraph thereof:

The Retention stated in the Schedule as "Registered Investment Advisor Retention" shall apply to Claims for which coverage is provided under this endorsement.

ALL OTHER TERMS, CONDITIONS AND EXCLUSION OF THE POLICY REMAIN UNCHANGED

SHORT COVERED CALL OPTIONS EXTENSION

In consideration of the premium charged, it is hereby understood and agreed that Clause 4., Exclusions, paragraph (m)(i) of this policy is deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following:

1. commodities, futures contracts, forwards contract or any type of option or futures contract, or any similar investments product, except Covered Call Options;

It is further understood and agreed that Clause 2., Definitions, is amended to include the following:

"Covered Call Options" means only exchange – traded short call options on stock actually owned by the Insured's client throughout the option's life.

All other terms, conditions and exclusions of the policy remain unchanged.

Policy Number: FD0504362



EXCESSIVE FEES EXCLUSION

This Policy shall not indemnify the Assured in respect of any third party claim for the reimbursement of fees, commissions, costs or other charges paid or payable to the Assured or any third party claim based upon allegations against the Assured of excessive fees, commissions, costs or other charges.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Policy Number: FD0504362



AFTER HOURS TRADING EXCLUSION

Insurers shall not be liable to make any payment in connection with any Claim (for purposes of this endorsement, to include any civil, criminal or regulatory investigation) based upon, arising out of, directly or indirectly resulting from or in consequence of, or in any way involving, Late Trading or Market Timing in the trading of mutual fund shares.

For the purposes of this endorsement, Late Trading shall mean:

- (1) placing orders to buy or sell mutual fund shares after the close of a trading day, but receiving the price based on the mutual fund's Net Asset Value for that day of trading; or
- (2) violations of laws, rules or regulations relating to the rules of forward pricing; or
- (3) allegations that after the close of trading, hedge funds or other investors were allowed to cancel orders of mutual fund shares or securities that were made prior to the close of trading; or
- (4) the types of late trading practices described in the 3rd September 2003 complaint filed by the New York Attorney General in the action styled State of New York v. Canary Capital Partners, LLC et al.,

For the purposes of this endorsement, Market Timing shall mean:

- (1) intentionally permitting Short-Term Trading of mutual fund shares; or
- (2) written or oral representations regarding the use of Short-Term trading or timing trading techniques in a mutual fund's shares, or written or oral representations regarding the mutual fund's efforts to monitor or prevent Short-Term Trading or timing trading in its shares; or
- (3) the receipt of fees or other compensation in exchange for trading privileges not available to other investors in mutual fund shares; or
- (4) the types of late trading practices described in the 3rd September 2003 complaint filed by the New York Attorney General in the action styled State of New York v. Canary Capital Partners, LLC et al., Supreme Court of the State of New York.

For the purposes of this endorsement, Short Term Trading shall mean selling or exchanging shares in a mutual fund less than 60 days after its purchase, or any other period of time greater than 60 days if so described by the mutual fund as Short-term Trading.

Policy Number: FD0504362

**LADDERING EXCLUSION**

In consideration of the premium charged for this Policy, It is hereby understood and agreed that Section 4, Exclusions, is amended to add the following:

- y) based upon, arising out of, directly or indirectly from or in consequence of, or in any way involving any actual or alleged:
 - 1) solicitation or receipt of any excessive, additional, undisclosed, improper or illegal compensation relating to an Offering, or Compensation greater than that disclosed in the prospectus or registration statement relating to the Offering;
 - 2) improper solicitations or agreements, whether express or implied, relating to any Offering, including, but not limited to solicitations or tie-in agreements to purchase: (i) additional shares of a company's stock at pre-determined prices; or (ii) shares of another corporation's stock; or
 - 3) violation of regulations S-K or M of the Securities Exchange Commission, or Conduct Rules 2110 and 2440 of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

For the purpose of this Endorsement, the term "Compensation" shall mean any commission, payments, fees, compensation or any other type of remuneration. "Compensation" shall also mean kickback's, bribes or any other similar type of payments.

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

**DISCOVERY AMENDED
BILATERAL - ONE YEAR PRESET**

In consideration of the premium charged, it is hereby understood and agreed that the policy (and any endorsement amending Clause 10. DISCOVERY CLAUSE) is hereby amended to the extent necessary for the policy to provide the following:

Clause 10. DISCOVERY CLAUSE, is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

10. DISCOVERY CLAUSE

Except as indicated below, if the Named Entity shall cancel or the Named Entity or the Insurer shall refuse to renew this policy, the Named Entity shall have the right to a period of either one, two or three years following the effective date of such cancellation or nonrenewal upon payment of the respective "Additional Premium Amount" described below (herein referred to as the "Discovery Period") in which to give to the Insurer written notice of Claims first made against the Insureds during said Discovery Period for any Wrongful Act occurring prior to the end of the Policy Period and otherwise covered by this policy. The rights contained in this paragraph shall terminate, however, unless written notice of such election together with the additional premium due is received by the Insurer within 30 days of the effective date of cancellation or nonrenewal. The Additional Premium for the Discovery Period shall be fully earned at the inception of the Discovery Period. The Discovery Period is not cancelable. This clause and the rights contained herein shall not apply to any cancellation resulting from non-payment of premium.

The Additional Premium Amount for: (1) one year shall be 125% of the "Full Annual Premium". As used herein, "Full Annual Premium" means the premium level in effect immediately prior to the end of the Policy Period.

In the event of a Transaction, as defined in Clause 12, the Named Entity shall have the right, within 30 days before the end of the Policy Period, to request an offer from the Insurer of a Discovery Period (with respect to Wrongful Acts occurring prior to the effective time of the Transaction) for a period of no less than three years or for such longer or shorter period as the Named Entity may request. The Insurer shall offer such Discovery Period pursuant to such terms, conditions and premium as the Insurer may reasonably decide. In the event of a Transaction, the right to a Discovery Period shall not otherwise exist except as indicated in this paragraph.

ALL OTHER TERMS, CONDITIONS AND EXCLUSIONS REMAIN UNCHANGED.

Policy Number: FD0504362



Signing Schedule

SECURITIES BROKER/DEALER'S PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

Placed With:

50.0000% CERTAIN UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S

(as attached schedule)

50.0000% LEXINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY

 100.0000% Order Hereon

Schedule of Lloyd's Underwriters

<u>Share</u>	<u>Pseudonym</u>	<u>Syndicate No</u>
50.0000% BRT		2987
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: BRIT SYNDICATES LIMITED, 2ND FLOOR, 55, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, EC2N 3AS		
<hr/> 50.0000% Order Hereon <hr/>		

Duty to disclose Material Information:

Material Information is information that would influence an insurer in deciding whether a risk is acceptable and, if so, the premium, terms and conditions to be applied. Failure to disclose such information could result in the policy being rendered void so that *claims would not be paid*.

The duty of disclosure is re-imposed when there are changes or variations in cover and when the policy is renewed or extended. In addition, changes which substantially increase the risk, or relate to compliance with a warranty or condition in the policy must be notified at once.

To ensure that cover is not prejudiced, please refer to Aon if there is any doubt as to what information needs to be disclosed.